The Number of farmers as on 1.10.1991 in Andhra Pradesh from whom the premium towards Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) has been collected, is 5,07,642. The corresponing figures for kharif 1989 and Kharif 1990 are 7,20,593 and 1,95,568, respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Gas found in Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery Basin

3461. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas has been found in Krishna, Godavari and in Cauvery basin long ago;

(b) if so, the reasons for not exploiting the gas by the government;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the government to utilise this gas and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some foreign companies are also interested to collaborate in this work;

(e) if so, whether the government propose to accept the assistance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Gas is already being exploited in these regions. ONGC have laid a pipeline between Tanuku and Kavvur. Also GAIL is constructing a pipeline from Tatipaka to Kakinada. Available gas in the region has already been committed to downstream users.

(d) to (f). Four blocks in Krishna-Godavari offshore basin and one block in Cauvery offshore have been offered for exploration for oil and gas to foreigen and domestic companies under the Fourth Round of Bidding.

Royalty rate on coal

3462. SHRI VILASRAO N A G N T H R A O GUNDEWAR:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coal in Maharashtra;

(b) the rate of royalty/cess on coal, State-wise;

(c) whether any representation from Members of parliament and legislative Assembly has been received by the Union Government to determine the royalty on coal on the basis of its price instead of its weight;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to increase the rate of royalty on coal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the